

CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended). A device for clamping and ablating cardiac tissue comprising:

a first handle member;

a second handle member;

first and second ~~mating~~ jaw members associated with the first and second handle members, respectively, the jaw members being movable by the handle members between a first open position and a second clamped position in which the jaw members are substantially parallel, at least portions of the jaws being parallel through a range of tissue clamping spacing;

a first elongated electrode extending along the portion of first jaw member, the first elongated electrode having a width and the portion of the first jaw member including a clamping surface having a width greater than the first electrode and disposed on each side of the first electrode;

a second elongated electrode extending along the portion of second jaw member, the second elongated electrode having a width and the portion of the second jaw member including a clamping surface having a width greater than the second electrode and disposed on each side of the second electrode;

the first and second electrodes being in face-to-face relationship and being adapted to be connected to an RF energy

source so that, when activated, the first and second electrodes are of opposite polarity.

2. (Previously presented). The device of claim 1 wherein the parallel jaw members are spaced apart between approximately 1 to 15 mm when in the clamped position.

3. (Currently amended). A tissue grasping apparatus comprising:

Fig. 1
first and second parallel grasping jaws, the grasping jaws being relatively moveable between open ~~position~~ and closed positions, the spacing between the jaw members being substantially constant when in the closed position and at least portions of the jaws being parallel through a range of clamping spacing; each jaw including an elongated electrode and a clamping surface on such portion in face-to-face relation with the electrode and clamping surface of the other jaw; the face-to-face electrodes being of opposite polarity and connectible to a power source for providing an electrical current to the electrodes; and each elongated electrode having a width less than the width of the respective clamping surface and being flanked by a portion of the respective clamping surface.

4. (Previously presented). The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the parallel grasping jaws spaced apart between approximately 1 to 15 mm when in the closed position.

5. (Previously presented). The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the clamping surfaces of the jaws ~~are~~ comprise insulating material.

6. (Newly added). The apparatus of claim 1 in which the each electrode is generally centrally located relative to the width of the respective clamping surface.

7. (Newly added). The apparatus of claim 3 in which each electrode is generally centrally located relative to the width of the respective clamping surface.